

EVALUATION OF AFP 200-2-6
INTELLIGENCE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NORTHWEST USSR AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE GUIDE

Comments and corrections are as follows:

In Foreward (second page): Area discussed is also bounded on the west by Poland.

page 1 and 11. Table of contents should precede page entitled Soviet Peoples. Error by printer in assembling, pages juxtaposed.

page 1. The "Indo-European" and "Ural-Altai" are ethnic or linguistic, preferably ethnic, rather than nationality groups.

page 1; 2a. Finno-Ugrians should read Finno-Ugrians.

page 1; 2a(3). Saami number only about 1800 people, and they are too small a group to warrant inclusion in the general description. Samoyeds are not Finno-Ugrians, therefore they should be a second subdivision of the Ural-Altai group.

page 1. Another subdivision of the Finno-Ugrians worthy of mention is the Volga-Finn group (referred to in Air Force Manual No. 200-74) found north of 54°N. These include Cherenis (about 300,000 in Mariyskaya ASSR), Mordvinians (about 400,000 in Mordovskaya ASSR), and Udmurts (about 500,000 in Udmurtskaya ASSR).

page 1. The Komi, also Finno-Ugrians, occupy a large area in northeastern European USSR on the headwaters of the Pechora, Mezen' and Vychegda Rivers.

page 1. Ural-Altai should encompass the Turkic group (designated as Turko-Tatars in AFP 200-27) which includes Tatars (about 1.5 million in Tatarskaya ASSR), Chuvash (about 800,000 in Chuvashskaya ASSR) and Bashkir in Bashkirska ASSR.

page 2. Russian Orthodox Church is a better designation than Greek Orthodox Church as the Soviets control the church of the Great Russians.

page 3. Pyavozero should read Pyaozero.

page 3. Karelians are predominantly blonde rather than having brown, blonde or reddish hair as mentioned in the text.

page 4. Text contains statement that the young Esths (under 30) are usually fanatic Communists. On the contrary, the majority of this group is probably anti-communist, as indicated by several reports of developments during recent years.

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This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, USC Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

page 4. The Saami, quite distinct from the Samoyeds, are too small a group to warrant discussion in this study. Of greater value would be a description of the Nentsy, a group of Samoyeds living in the tundra region.

page 6. In the fourth paragraph, the word occupations or term economic activities would be preferable to professions. Lumbering is also a major activity in the southern part of the region occupied by the Karelians. As there is little cultivation, it is unlikely that reindeer would be used for tilling purposes.

page 7. The word agriculture in the fourth paragraph should be replaced by "some crop cultivation." The sentence would better read -- Dairy farming, some crop cultivation, fishing, and lumbering and related enterprises are the main activities in the Estonian economy.

page 7. A description of Samoyed activities would be preferable to those of the Saami.

page 8. Last sentence of next to last paragraph should probably read "...general appearance of both men and women is drab and somewhat misshapen." Last paragraph is unnecessarily wordy.

page 10. The word "areas" should be replaced by centers and the word large omitted since Arkhangel'sk is not large in the same sense as is Moscow or Leningrad. Also, Gor'kiy would be a better example than Arkhangel'sk.

page 10. In the last paragraph, information should be modified to read "it should be assumed that most children are loyal to the government."

page 13. Major waterways are the Volga, Kama, Neva-Svir, Moskva-Oka, and northern Dvina-Sukhona Rivers. The Mologa is of little significance.

page 13. Small mountain ranges varying in height from 1,000 to 4,000 feet are located on the Kola Peninsula, not in the Karelian area.

page 13. Most of the major reservoirs were omitted. In addition to those mentioned, three other large reservoirs are located in north-west US SR -- Kama Reservoir, near Molotov on the Kama River; Kuybyshev Reservoir, northwest of Kuybyshev on the Volga; Gorodets Reservoir northwest of Gor'kiy on the Volga. The Volzhskoye Reservoir is small by present-day standards.

page 14. In respect to land utilization, cultivated land devoted to flax, grain, potatoes, and other vegetables is usually found on the better-drained land along the rivers and on the watershed areas. The wetter land is devoted to meadow and pasture.

page 14. Deep ravines and gorges are an exaggeration of the characteristic features of northwest USSR except in the extreme southeast part of the area. In the uplands west of the Urals and in the forest steppe region rivers are deeply incised. Valley walls are steep, some reaching one to two hundred feet in height. Farther to the north, the rivers have broad, shallow valleys, and ravines and gorges are uncommon.

page 14. Description of lakes is not clear. Most of the lakes are glacial in origin, tending to be elongated and oriented in a predominant northwest-southeast direction. The majority of the lakes are concentrated in a band of glaciated terrain found west of 40°E longitude and as far south as a line connecting Moscow and Grodno near the Polish border.

page 15. Winters are severe and cold, but not unbearable. The last sentence of the first paragraph is poorly worded. The high humidity coupled with the numerous cloudy days and the darkness of the long winter nights is conducive to mental depression. The high humidity alone would not cause the people to develop a remorseful or sluggish attitude.

page 15. Ground moisture or water, not rainfall, causes wet or swampy terrain conditions.

page 15. Cold air masses would be a better designation than cold frosts to show climatic factors affecting freezing.

page 17. Instead of the blackberry, the cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*) is found in the southern tundra.

page 18. Spruce, fir, and larch are tree genera not species. Pine should be included in this listing.

page 23. Fodder corn and sugar beets are crops also in the Baltic region. Besides dairying, hog raising and poultry farming are important activities in the Baltic Republics.

page 24. Passenger trains keep to their schedule very well.

page 26. Guillelots is misspelled Guellemnts.

page 29. Polar bears, creamy white in color, are found in the tundra region of European USSR. They are dangerous when wounded, and are known to stalk humans.

page 34 As there are 25 thousand species of beetles in the Soviet Union, it is unlikely that there are only 23 species in European USSR as mentioned in the text. It would probably be better to state "numerous species."

page 34. It would be useful to add information about the symptoms of bites from malarial mosquitoes, spiders and scorpions.

page 39. Section entitled "Russian Words and Phrases" contains numerous errors which should be corrected i.e. in the pronunciation column the phrase "please help me", "ПОЖАЛУЙСТА ПОМОГИТЕ" is left out. Numerous other discrepancies exist between the "Pronunciation" and "Russian Spelling" columns for specific words. See Russian words for food, water, coat, cigarette, and others. This section should be thoroughly overhauled.

page 40. Russian equivalent for meter is incorrect.

page 42. The Amur River is located in the Far East and should not be used as an example.

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